

**COMMUNITY – ANIMALS ON COLLEGE GROUNDS****1.0 RATIONALE**

This Policy seeks:

- To ensure animals do not cause any physical harm to persons, or damage to College property or pose a health and safety threat to staff, students and/or visitors;
- To ensure students and staff are protected if they have severe reactions to animal (pet hair)
- To regulate the presence and management of animals on College grounds and in areas where College activities are being undertaken. 'College grounds' include all areas, buildings and facilities which are accessible by students, staff and/or members of the public.

**2.0 SCOPE**

This policy applies to all employees, students, contractors and visitors of Mandurah Catholic College.

**3.0 PROCEDURE**

- The College will take all reasonable precautions to protect the safety of staff, students, contractors and visitors. The intent of the policy is to ensure that College grounds remain clean and safe for all.
- Dogs and other animals (other than local wildlife) are not permitted unless deemed appropriate by an Executive member. The policy does allow for animals to visit classrooms for specific purposes (such as pet days, or a small classroom pet) only with the prior approval of an Executive member.
- Certified assistance animals are exempted from these provisions and are allowed access to the College using the same guidelines as those in place in the community.
- Any animals brought onto College grounds (approved by an Executive member) must be appropriately restrained at all times either by a lead or in an enclosed compartment. The person in control of the animal must be at least 16 years of age and able to restrain the animal.
- The owners or carers of any dogs and/or other animals on College premises must also comply with all relevant local Council regulations and/or any other statutory provision.
- The animal must have a temperament suited to being around children and crowds. Those animals that have difficult temperaments and are fearful, timid or dominant should not be brought onto the school grounds.
- Hygiene of animals must be maintained at all times. Hygiene is maintained through:
  - a) appropriate cleaning of any toileting behaviour (carry plastic bags to do this) and to removing the refuse from College grounds for disposal;
  - b) keeping animals out of sandpits, play and lunch areas (keep to paths and passageways);
  - c) only healthy animals allowed on College grounds; (to prevent cross-infection to other pets etc);
  - d) keeping animals from licking or other means of transfer of any infection.
- Service dogs must abide by the above conditions and be accommodated appropriately with suitable shelter and nourishment while on site.
- There will be circumstances where it is not appropriate to have animals on College grounds. Such circumstances might include, for example, situations where the presence of an animal:
  - a) Would be contrary to any health, cultural or safety consideration;
  - b) Would have an adverse impact on the amenity or welfare of students and/or staff;
  - c) Would unreasonably interfere with the day to day operation of the College;
  - d) Would contravene any other statutory provision.

In such circumstances referred to above, the College reserves the right to restrict or prohibit the presence of animals on College grounds.

This policy is to be implemented through statements, procedures and arrangements established under the College's Work Health and Safety program.